AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for depositing a coating on one face of ~~a~~ at least one container made of a thermoplastic using a low-pressure plasma by excitation of a precursor gas by UHF electromagnetic waves in a circular vacuum chamber containing said container, wherein ~~the chamber is sized in relation to the~~ a frequency of the UHF electromagnetic waves is selected and said chamber is sized such that ~~so as to obtain~~ a coupling mode ~~that generates~~ is generated which generates several electromagnetic fields inside the chamber, and wherein several containers are disposed inside said chamber, each container being coaxial with a respective one of said electromagnetic fields, whereby it is possible for several respective containers to be simultaneously treated in the same chamber.

2. (currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a TM 120 coupling mode is established, which generates two central fields ~~(4_A, 4_B)~~ inside the chamber, whereby two containers can be simultaneously treated in said chamber.

3. (withdrawn-currently amended): A device for depositing a coating on one face of ~~a~~ at least one container made of a thermoplastic using a low-pressure plasma by excitation of a precursor gas by UHF electromagnetic waves in a circular vacuum chamber containing said container, which device comprises a UHF wave generator and a UHF waveguide for connecting

said generator to a window of ~~the~~ a side wall of the chamber, wherein said generator emits an electromagnetic wave having a frequency f = 2.455 GHz, and wherein the diameter of said chamber is about 273 mm ~~the chamber is sized in relation to the frequency of the UHF electromagnetic waves in order~~ to establish a TM 120 coupling mode that generates two central fields ~~(4_A, 4_B)~~ in the cavity, whereby it is possible for two containers to be simultaneously treated inside said chamber.

4. (canceled).

5. (withdrawn-currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein ~~the~~ said chamber contains two quartz envelopes mounted in a vacuum-tight manner in the chamber and placed respectively ~~so as to be approximately~~ substantially coaxial with the two central fields ~~(4_A, 4_B)~~, ~~in that~~ wherein ~~the~~ said chamber includes a single window for injecting the UHF waves, ~~the~~ said window being located along the axis of symmetry of the two central fields ~~(4_A, 4_B)~~, and ~~in that~~ wherein a single cover for closing off ~~the~~ said chamber is equipped with a single coupler for connection to a vacuum source, which coupler is divided into two (at 11) in order to be connected to ~~the abovementioned~~ said two respective envelopes, with two precursor gas injectors that are connected to a single precursor gas source and with two support means for the two respective containers.

6. (withdrawn-currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 5, wherein it includes positionally adjustable bottom ~~(17_i)~~ and top ~~(17_S)~~ plates suitable for acting on the

respective return fields ~~(5A, 5B)~~ so as to refine the coupling ~~according to the~~ in relation with various types of container ~~that can~~ to be treated.

7. (withdrawn-currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 5, ~~wherein it is~~ being designed for coating the inside of containers and ~~in that~~wherein for this purpose, the precursor gas injectors are designed to sit inside the respective containers when ~~the latter~~ said containers are supported by support means inside ~~the~~ respective envelopes.